

THE HUMBLE
PETITION

OF THE
MAIOR, ALDERMEN,
and COMMONS of the City
of London to His Majesty,

WITH
HIS MAJESTIES
Gracious Answer thereunto.



Printed by His MAJESTIES Command,
AT OXFORD, January 5.

By LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer
to the University.



TO THE
KINGS MOST EXCELLENT
MAJESTIE.

*The humble Petition of the MAJOR, ALDERMEN, and
COMMONS of the City of LONDON.*

SHewETH,

THat the Petitioners, Your *Majesties* most humble and loyall Subjects, being much pierced with the long and great divisions betwixt Your *Majestie*, and both your Houses of *Parliament*, and with sad and bloody effects thereof, both here and in *Ireland*, are yet more deeply wounded by the mis-apprehension which your *Majestie* seemeth to entertain of the Love and Loyalty of this Your City, as if there were some Cause of feare or suspicion of danger to Your Royall Person, if Your *Majestie* should returne hither, and that this is made the unhappy Bar that blessed Reconciliation with Your great and most faithfull Counsell for preventing that desolation and destruction which is now most apparently imminent to Your *Majestie* and all Your Kingdomes,

For satisfaction therefore of Your *Majestie*, and clearing of the Petitioners Innocency, they most humbly declare, (as formerly they have done) That they are no way conscious of any Disloyalty, but abhor all thoughts thereof, and that they are resolved to make good their Solemne Protestation and sacred Vow, made to Almighty God, and with the last drop of their dearest Bloods, to defend and maintain the true Reformed Protestant Religion, and, according to the duty of their Allegiance, Your *Majesties* Royall Person, Honour and Estate, whatsoever is maliciously and most falsely suggested to Your *Majestie*.

to the Contrary) as well as the Power and Priviledges of *Parliament*, and the Lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject: and doe hereby engage themselves, their Estates, and all they have to their uttermost power, to defend and preserve Your *Majestie* and both Houses of *Parliament* from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence, with as much Loyalty, love, and Duty as ever Citizens expressed towards Your *Majestie*, or any of Your *Royall* Progenitors, in their greatest Glory.

The Petitioners therefore, upon their bended Knees doe most humbly beseech Your *Majestie* to returne to Your *Parliament*, (a companied with our *Royall* not Your *Martiall* attendance,) to the end, that Religion, Lawes and Liberties may be settled and secured, and whatsoever is amisse Church and Common-wealth, reformed by their Advice, according to the fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdome: and that such a Peace may thereby be obtained, as shall befor the glory of God, the Honour and Happinesse of Your *Majestie* and Posterity, and the safety and well-fare of all Your *Loyall* Subjects, who (the Petitioners are full-assured, whatsoever is given out to the contrary,) doe unanimously desire the Peace herein expressed.

And the Petitioners shall over pray, &c.

MICHELL.

His Majestie hath graciously considered this PETITION, and Returns this ANSWER.

That His Majesty doth not entertain any mis-apprehension of the Love and Loyalty of His City of *London*. As He hath alwaies expressed a singular regard and esteem of the Affections of that City, and will desirous to make it His chiefe place of Residence, and to continue and renew many markes of His favour to it, so He beleeves much better and greater part of that His Citie is full of Love, Duty and Loyalty to His Majesty: and that the Tumults, which heretofore forced His Majesty for His safety to leave that Place, though they were contrived and encouraged by some principall members thereof, (who since well known, though they are above the Reach of Justice) consisted more of desperate Persons of the Suburbs, and the neighbour-

ring Townes, (who were mis-led too by the cunning and malice of the seducers,) then of the Inhabitants of that City. He lookes on His good Subjects there, as Persons groaning under the same Burthen which doth oppresse His Majestie, and awed by the same Persons who begat the Tumults, and the same Army which gave Battell to His Majestie. And therefore as no good subject can more desire from His soule a Composu- of the generall distractions, so no good Citizen can more desire the est- blishment of the particular Peace and Prosperitie of that place, by His Majesties Accessethither, then His Majestie Himselfe doth.

But His Majestie desires His good Subjects of *London* seriously to con- sider, what confidence His Majestie can have of Security there, while the Lawes of the Land are so notoriously despised and trampled und- foot, and the wholsome Government of that City (heretofore so famo- over all the World) is now submitted to the Arbitrary Power of a fe- desperate persons of no Reputation, but for malice and disloyalty to His Whil'st Armes are taken up not onely without, but against His conse- and expresse command, and Collections publicly made, and Contribu- ons avowed for the maintenance of the Army which hath given Him Ba- tell, and therein used all possible means Treason and Malice could sug- gest to them, to have taken His Life from him, and to have destroyed His Royall Issue; Whilest such of his Majesties Subjects, who out of Du- ty and affection to His Majestie, and Compassion of their bleeding Countre have laboured for Peace, are reviled, injured and murdered, even by the Magistrates of that City, or by their directions. Lastly, what hope His Majestie can have of safety there, whilest Alderman *Pennington* their pre- tended Lord Major, (the principall Author of those Calamities, which neerely threaten the Ruine of that famous City) *Ven, Foulke, and Maim- ring* (all Persons notoriously guilty of Schisme, and high Treason,) com- mit such outrages in oppressing, robbing, and imprisoning, according to their Discretion, all such His Majesties loving Subjects, whom they are pleased to suspect but for wishing well to His Majestie. And His Majestie would know whether the Petitioners beleeve, that the reviling and sup- pressing the Booke of Common-Prayer, (established in this Church ever since the Reformation,) the discountenancing and imprisoning Godly Learned, and painfull Preachers, and the cherishing and countenancing Brownists, Anabaptists, and all manner of Sectaries, be the way to deferre and maintaine the true, reformed, Protestant Religion? That to comp- with and assist persons, who have actually attempted to kill His Majestie

nd to allow and favour Libells, Pasquills, and seditious Sermons against His Majesty, be to defend His Royall Person and Honour, according to the duty of their Allegiance? Whether to imprison mens Persons and to Plunder their houses, because they will not Rebell against His Majestie, nor assist those that doe? Whether to destroy their Property, by taking away the Twentieth part of their Estates from them, and by the same Arbitrary power to referre to foure standers by of their wne faction, to judge what that Twentieth part is, be to defend the lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject? And if they thinke these Actions to be instances of either, whether they do not know the persons before named to be guilty of them all? Or whether they thinke it possible, that Almighty God can blesse that City, and preserve it from destruction, whilst persons of such knowne Guilt and Wickednesse, are defended and justified amongst them, against the power of that Law, by which they can onely abhist?

His Majestie is so farre from suffering Himselfe to be incensed against the whole City, by the actions of these ill men, though they have hitherto bene so prevalent as to make the Affections of the rest of little use to Him, and is so willing to be with them, and to protect them, that the Trade, Wealth, and Glory thereof (so decayed and Eclipsed by these publike distractions) may again be the Envie of all forraigne Nations, That He hath once more graciously offer His free and generall Pardon to all the Inhabitants of that His City of *London*, the Suburbs, and City of *Westminster*, except the Persons formerly excepted by His Majestie, if they shall yet returne to their Duty, Loyalty and Obedience. And if His good Subjects of that His City of *London*, shall first solemnly declare, That they will defend the known Lawes of the Land, and will submit to, and be govern'd by no other Rule; If they shall first manifest, by defending themselves, and maintaining their own Rights, Liberties and Interests, and suppressing by force and violence unlawfully raised against those, and His Majestie, their Power to defend and preserve Him from all Tumults, Affronts, and Violence; Lastly, if they shall apprehend and commit to safe Custody the Persons of those foure men, who enrich themselves by the spoyle and oppression of His loving Subjects, and the ruine of the City, that His Majestie may proceede against them by the course of Law, as guilty of high Treason, His Majestie will speedily returne to them with His Royall, and without His Martiall Attendance, and will use his utmost endeavour, that they may hereafter enjoy all the Blessings of Peace and Plenty, and will

no longer expect Obedience from them, then he shall with all the faculties of His Soule, labour in the preserving and advancing the true, reformed, Protestant Religion, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty and Propriety of the Subject, and the just Priviledges of Parliament.

If notwithstanding all this, the Art and Interest of these men can prevaile so farre, that they involve more men in their guilt, and draw that His City to sacrifice it's present Happinesse and future Hopes to their Pride, Fury, and Malice, His Majestie shall onely give them this Warning, That whosoever shall henceforward, take up Armes without His Consent, contribute any money or Plate, upon what pretence of Authority soever for maintenance of the Army under the Command of the Earle of Essex, or any other Army in Rebellion against Him, or shall pay Tunnage and Poundage, till the same shall be settled by Act of Parliament, Every such Person must expect the severest punishment the Law can inflict; and in the meane time His Majestie shall seize upon any part of his Estate with His Power, for the reliefe and support of Him and His Army, rais'd and maintain'd for the Defence of His Person, the Lawes, and this His Kingdome; And since he denyes to His Majestie the duty and benefit of his subjection, by giving assistance to Rebels, which by the knowne Lawes of the Land is high Treason, His Majestie shall likewise deny him the benefit of his Protection; and shall not only signifie to all His Forraigne Minister that such Person shall receive no advantage by being His Subject, but shall by all other wayes and meanes proceede against him as a publike Enemy to His Majestie, and this Kingdome.

But His Majestie hopes and doubts not, but His good Subjects of London will call to mind the Acts of their Predecessors, their Duty, Affection, Loyalty and merit towards their Princes, the Renown they have had with all posteritie for, and the Blessings of Heaven which alwayes accompanied those vertues, and will consider the perpetuall scorne and infamy, which unavoidably will follow them and their Children, if infinitely the manner part in quality, and much the lesser part in number, shall be able to alter the Government so admirably established, destroy the Trade so excellent settled, and to waste the wealth so industriously gotten, of that flourishing City, And then they will easily gather up the Courage and Resolution joyne with His Majestie in Defence of that Religion, Law and Liberty which hitherto hath and onely can make themselves, His Majesty, and His Kingdome happy.

For concurring with the Advice of His Two Houses of Parliament

which with Reference to the Common-wealth may be as well at this distance, as by being at *White-hall*, His Majesty doubts not but His good Subjects of *London*, well know how farre (beyond the example of any of His Predecessors) His Majesty hath concurred with their advice, in passing of such Lawes, by which Hewillingly parted with many of His known Rights, for the benefit of His Subjects, which the fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdome did not oblige Him to consent unto, and hath used all possible meanes to beget a right understanding between them, And will heretofore apply themselves to those, who, by making Iust, Peaceable, and honourable Propositions to His Majestie, can onely beget that Concurrence.

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